

CLAIMS

1. A method for forming a coating film on a plastic substrate which comprises the steps of:

5 (1) coating the plastic substrate with an aqueous white primer (A) having a water content of about 15% to about 48% by weight and being capable of forming a coating film having a lightness level (L* value) of about 80 or more based on the L*a*b* color system as defined in JIS Z
10 8729;

15 (2) heating the thus formed coating film of the primer (A) to adjust the water content of the film to within the range of about 1% to about 10% by weight and the surface electrical resistivity value of the film to less than about $10^9 \Omega/\text{square}$;

15 (3) electrostatically coating the thus adjusted coating film of the primer (A) with a thermosetting clear colored coating composition (B);

20 (4) electrostatically coating the uncured coating film of the clear colored coating composition (B) with a thermosetting clear coating composition (C); and

25 (5) baking the three-layer coating film of the coating compositions (A), (B) and (C) to obtain a cured multilayer coating film having a lightness value (N value) of about 8.5 or more based on the Munsell color system as

defined in JIS Z 8721.

2. The method for forming a coating film according to
claim 1, wherein the coating film of the aqueous white
primer (A), after being coated with the thermosetting
5 primer (B) in step (3), has a clear colored coating composition (B) in step (3), has a
surface electrical resistivity value of less than about
 $10^9 \Omega/\text{square}$.

10 3. The method for forming a coating film according to
claim 1, wherein the plastic substrate is heated to about
35°C to about 60°C before coating in step (1).

15 4. The method for forming a coating film according to
claim 1, wherein the aqueous white primer (A) comprises a
chlorinated polyolefin, white pigment and water.

20 5. The method for forming a coating film according to
claim 4, wherein the aqueous white primer (A) further
comprises one or more modifier resins.

6. A coated plastic article obtained by the method
for forming a coating film according to claim 1.